

Reviews

HEARTBREAKERS (CIC-Taft)

Peter Coyote and Nick Mancuso co-star in this touching story of two mates — one a struggling artist, the other a successful businessman — who both respect and envy each other. Arthur Blue (Coyote) is the artist on a tireless quest for recognition as a painter, while his friend Eli (Mancuso) has all that money can buy but yearns for a solid relationship. The film follows the course of their friendship through a series of upheavals that threatens to tear them apart — but which ultimately proves they rely on each other much more than anything else.

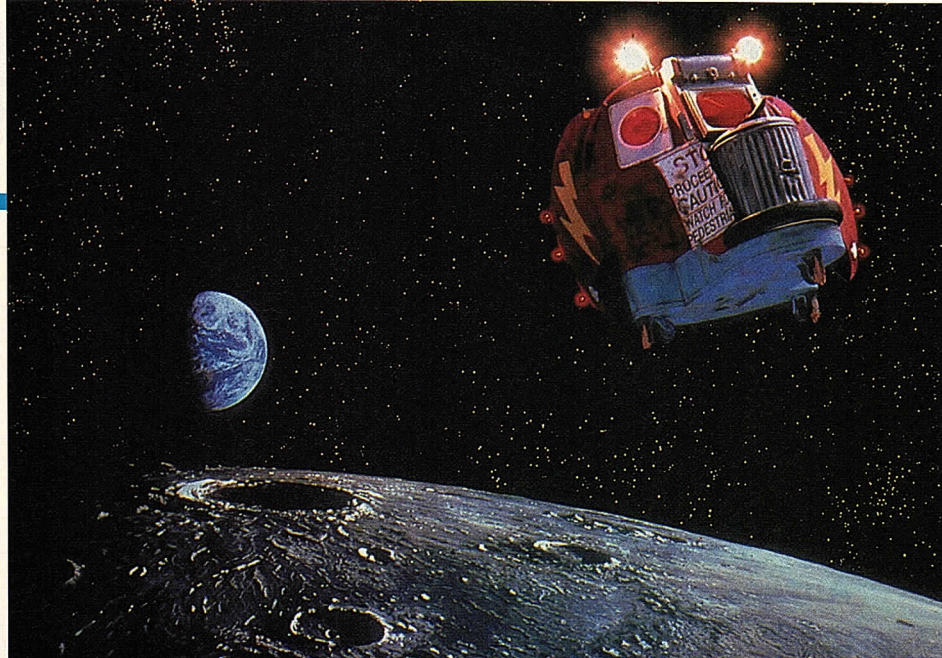
THE DIRTY DOZEN - THEIR NEXT MISSION (CEL)

Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine are the best-known faces here in what is basically a re-run, and a poor one at that, of the original Dirty Dozen. Obviously made for television (there are numerous blackouts suitable for insertion of TV commercials), it follows the same formula whereby a bunch of hard-nosed military criminals are given the chance to have their records wiped if they succeed on a perilous mission behind enemy lines. Cheap and nasty.

LOOKER

(Warner Home Video)

The relentless quest by TV advertising moguls to find "perfect" models, who not only look right but also move in a way that maximises their on-screen impact, is taken to extremes when a company invents a computer which can scan a model's body then re-create and manipulate the image. Trouble is, the computer needs a perfect model to begin with so a number of girls are sent off for plastic surgery for final "adjustments" to be made. When the girls begin to die in suspicious circumstances, the plastic surgeon (played by Albert Finney) decides to investigate and uncovers a dastardly plot by a shadowy corporation (James Coburn plays the ruthless chief executive) to use TV to brainwash the world. It's an imaginative and exciting thriller.



Space cadets!

JOE DANTE, the director of Gremlins, and Star Wars creator George Lucas, through his Industrial Light And Magic company, join forces on Explorers, a new video release from CIC-Taft.

It's a captivating space fantasy starring teenagers Ethan Hawke, Jason Presson and River Phoenix as three boys bonded together by their sense of adventure and interest in science-fiction.

The story begins when Ben Crandall (Hawke) has some strange dreams in which he flies through a weird landscape that

looks like a printed circuit board. When he wakes, he sketches as much as he can remember and shows it to his friend Wolfgang (Phoenix), an electronics whiz who recognises and reconstructs the circuit diagram.

The upshot is that they discover a powerful inertia-free drive mechanism which can be controlled through Wolfgang's home computer.

With the help of Darren (Presson), they build a crude space ship and the adventure begins.

After a number of near-

Chris revives a legend

CHRIS SARANDON made an auspicious debut as a film actor when he starred in the 1972 production Dog Day Afternoon with Al Pacino.

Chris won an Academy Award nomination — and a lot of fans — as Leon, the homosexual lover of Pacino's character.

Recently he co-starred with Goldie Hawn in Protocol — and now he has revived the legend of the vampire in Fright Night, a new video release from RCA-Columbia Pictures Hoyts.



● William Ragsdale and Roddy McDowall on the vampire trail in Fright Night.

Charley (William Ragsdale) soon learns that potentially fatal lesson when he discovers that his new next-door neighbor Jerry Dandrige (Chris Sarandon) is a vampire. Trouble is, no one will believe him.

In desperation, Charley enlists

ANDREW PLAYS THE FOOL...

Anzacs star tells of his new role and why he won't play 007

PLAYING a soap opera private detective who thinks he's a superstar is one of the funniest and most unusual roles handsome Andrew Clarke has ever had.

Andrew, who has played roles in three back-to-back mini-series, is now working on an episode of the ABC series *The Fast Lane*.

"My character is good fun and a totally different role for me. I am playing this idiot actor who believes everything he reads about himself," he said.

Andrew, who has had his share of publicity recently, won a TV WEEK Logie Award for his performance in *Anzacs*.

"I think I've been very lucky," he said. "Really it just boils down to the fact that I'm happy to be in work — it's what I love most."

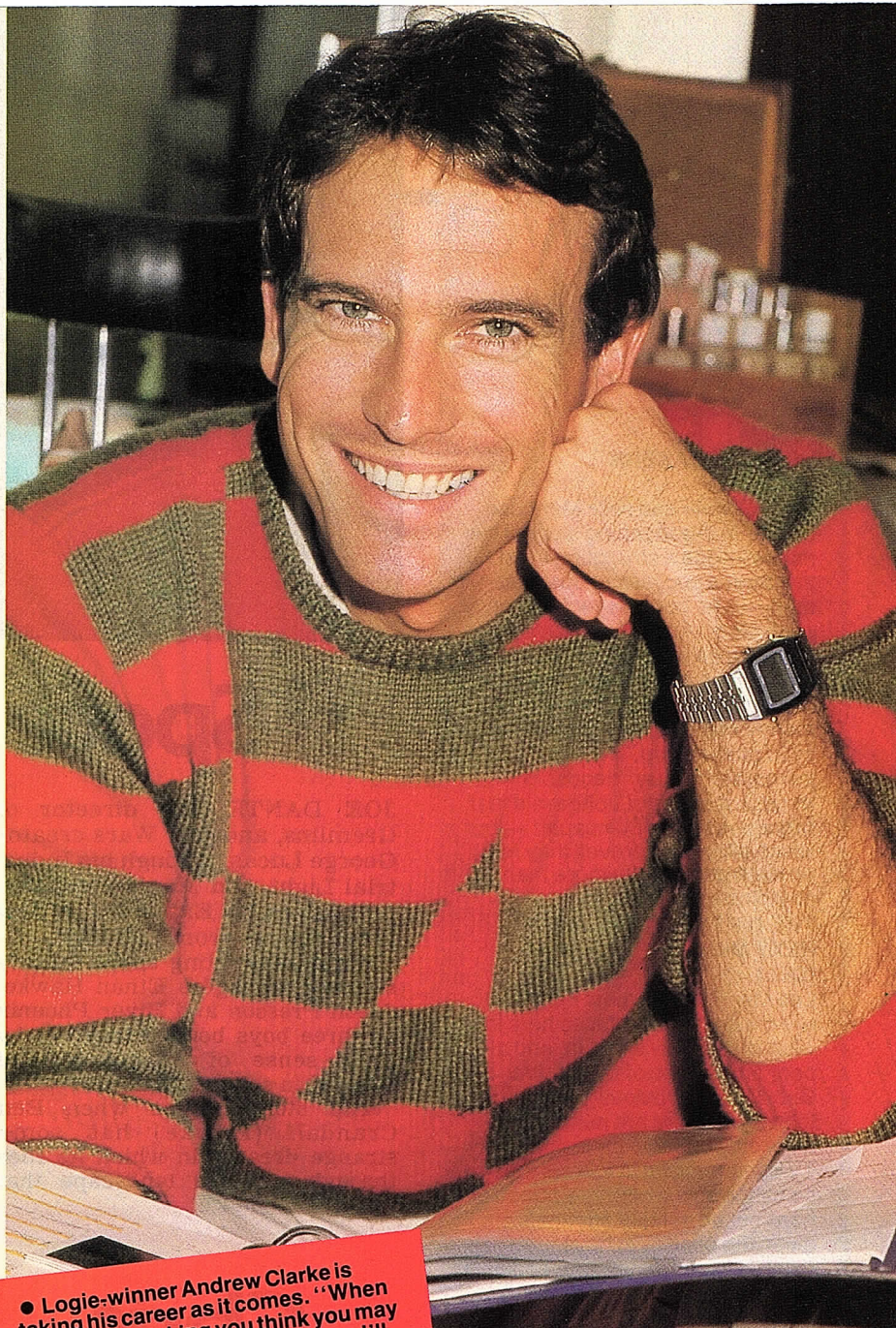
The second series of *The Fast Lane* is now being filmed in and around Melbourne and will go to air at the end of the year. The series stars Debra Lawrance, Terry Bader and Richard Healy as bumbling private detectives.

In the episode in which he appears, Andrew's character teams up with the private detectives to get some first-hand information on how a detective agency operates.

"This is the first real comedy role I have done. He really is very stupid. He wants to get right into his role, a real method actor, and of course he is taken for a complete ride," Andrew said with a laugh.

Guest starring in only the one episode of *The Fast Lane*, Andrew has no other acting work lined up but still has no regrets at refusing the offer earlier this year to play the role of James Bond.

"Finley Light and myself were flown to Los Angeles in February," he said. "The producers of the Bond films gave us a script and spent thousands and thousands of



● Logie-winner Andrew Clarke is taking his career as it comes. "When you aren't working you think you may never work again. If that happens I'll do something else."

dollars on setting up a screen test.

"I even had voice lessons to try to get rid of the nasal ocker sound. It was good fun but when it came to being offered a contract I pulled out. The contract was totally one-sided — they had almost complete control over you for 10 years.

"There was even a clause that let them hire you out to other studios and you were paid next to no money. I'm sure people must have thought I was crazy turning it down but I thought about it seriously and decided there was more to life than that — you've got to be your own boss.

"Once I make a decision I stick to it. I think I might go bush for a week or so with a couple of mates.

You have to take the chances for a break when they come.

"I am a realist. When you are not working you think maybe I'll never work again. If that happens I'll just do something else."

Andrew, who is only too willing to talk on most subjects, draws the line at discussing his private life. The rumor of a romance with his co-star in *Sword Of Honour*, Nikki Coghill, is hotly denied.

"We are just good friends. Working the way we do all over the country makes it a little difficult to keep a romance going," he said.

"Nikki is in Cairns doing a film and I'm in Melbourne and that's the way it often is. Believe me, if we moved in or got married you'd know about it."

Story: Amanda Zachariah
Photo: Rob Austen

VIDEO vibes

Outback epic

WITH horses, camels and tons of supplies — including a boat in which they intended sailing the fabled “inland sea” — Irishman Robert O'Hara Burke and his expedition of 28 men set off to “write the map”.

With his eyes on a place in history — and a chance to claim the hand of beautiful soprano Julia Matthews — Burke was unwavering, even in the face of certain death, in his quest to be the first man to cross Australia from south to north.

It was a grand and ultimately tragic adventure which captured the imagination of Australia in the 1860s — and was revived in the film *Burke And Wills*.

Jack Thompson is passionate and convincing as the heroically determined Burke; Nigel Havers disciplined and cool as the aristocratic and loyal surveyor Wills.

Other fine performances abound, in particular from Matthew Fargher as John King, sole survivor of the small party which made the final near-suicidal dash to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and Greta Scacchi as Julia Matthews whose devotion to Mr Burke was not enough to save him from the



ABOVE: Jack Thompson (right) and Nigel Havers... fine performances in *Burke And Wills*.

unforgiving outback or the indifference of the Melbourne establishment who all but deserted him.

Co-produced and directed by Graeme Clifford, who directed the Academy Award-nominated *Frances*, and photographed by Russell Boyd (who did Paul Hogan's *Crocodile Dundee*), *Burke And Wills* is a stirring epic that puts a human face on a milestone in Australian history.

The film is released this month by RCA-Columbia Pictures-Hoyts.

commercial properties in Australia now have their own television channel. The Real Estate Channel is a closed used-group channel operating on the UHF band in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Subscribers use a “black box” to decode television signals and get updates on properties for sale including photos and video footage.

DON'T miss Video Vibes next week for a great competition which gives you the chance to win copies of *Fright Night* and *Burke And Wills* plus *Burke And Wills* windcheaters and posters.

FURTHER to last week's item about Thorn-EMI, a company spokesman assures us that no matter what “behind-the-scenes” arrangements are made, it will continue to be “business as usual” for the video label's local operation.

Freeze Frames

COMEDIAN Col Elliott, who has sold more comedy records and cassettes in Australia than any other artist, is making a video special.

Footage for the special, expected to be released later this year, was recorded recently in Melbourne. The video and a new LP will be released simultaneously.

REAL estate agents, property investors and others involved in the buying and selling of houses, land and

ABOVE: River Phoenix, as Wolfgang, with his alien friend Neek in the sci-fi adventure movie *Explorers*. ABOVE LEFT: *The Thunder Road* in orbit.

disastrous test flights, the trio set off into space where they are “captured” by an alien spacecraft inhabited by two strange creatures — Wak and Neek, who are more than familiar with humans because they've been intercepting TV signals for years.

What follows is both a revelation and a disappointment for the boys — but entertaining for viewers!

the help of TV horror movie host Peter Vincent (Roddy McDowall) who eventually agrees to help Charley kill Dandridge.

Fright Night is a classy and contemporary horror thriller, with a dash of humor. Even so, Chris Sarandon had his reservations when first offered the role.

He was involved in a trashy horror movie years ago — Michael Winner's *The Sentinel* — and had sworn off the genre.

But then he read the script. “It had a strong sense of plot and the way the character was written attracted me,” Chris told *Video Vibes* from his New York home.

“I had to create a contemporary character yet fulfil all the clichés about vampires.

“I think we did it with affection and a sense of humor, although of course it up to the audience to say how well we succeeded.”

Chris, married to a former model and father of two children, has been acting for more than 20 years.

For this small country

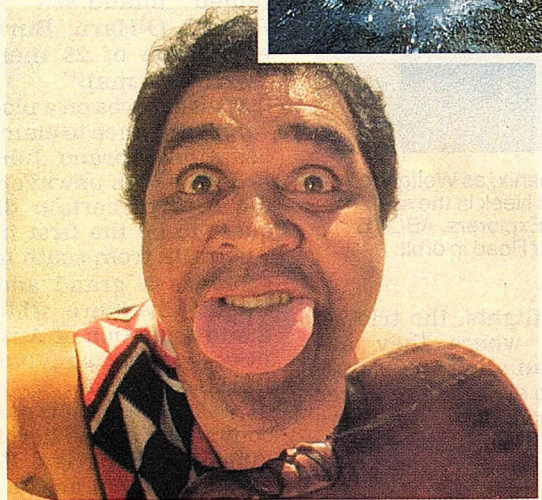
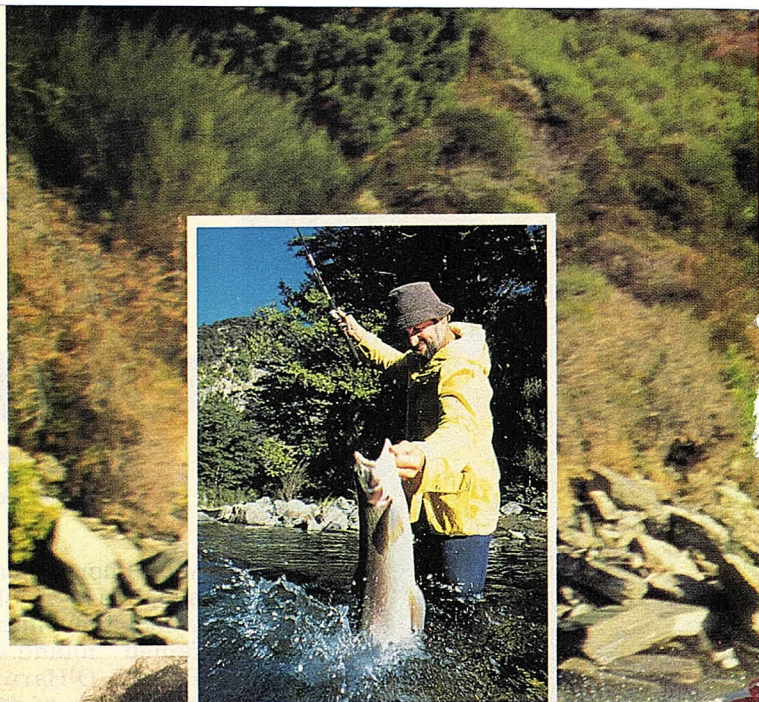
In New Zealand, the off-peak season is definitely not the quiet season. The exciting holiday action and attractions are all up and running. All year round. You may have to put on a sweater but it's worth it.

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